

Yet again, we see another initiative by older and entrenched media (and mega-corporations) to constrain new and emerging media, innovation, and personal choice. This is clearly not in the best interests of free enterprise and merit, but rather is about protecting the stagnant status quo. It is also contrary to theories about media remediation and convergence. Should the theatrical industry have tried to constrain the film industry, or should the live radio industry have tried to constrain the record labels? I can already get live local weather and traffic news on my home and work computers, cell phone, wireless laptop, and wireless PDA. I gladly pay for satellite radio in the same spirit that I pay for premium channels on cable: choice and personalized content. I applaud satellite radio for offering me instant localized content, and I hope that local news is not far away. I want information when I want it, not at the top of the hour or "on the eights," and I am clearly willing to pay for it. This, along with the DMCA and RIAA/MPAA/DRM stuff, is exactly what stifles innovation, and turns my students into cynics. You can turn these local satellite features off, but you can't stop the Webcasting of the same content to wireless devices. This is utterly ridiculous in a society that purports to be technologically advanced and supportive of individuals' rights to choose and of the freedom of speech.